LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (new) An automatic drug dispenser comprising:

a drug cassette which ejectably accommodates drugs;

a base unit which detachably supports the drug cassette and drives a motor to eject drugs;

a drug feeder storage which is designed to store a large number of base units;

a reading device which is provided in each of the base units and reads identification information assigned to the drug cassette; and

a checking means which compares a result of reading with pre-stored check data, wherein

a set of a microprocessor and a memory, or a microprocessor with a built-in memory is mounted in each of the base units, and the checking means and the check data are built in each microprocessor in a distributed manner.

14. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 13, wherein, if the result of comparison indicates matching failure, the base unit suspends motor-driven ejection and causes associated information to be output.

15. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 13, further comprising an overwriting means which overwrites the check data with the identification information read by the reading device.

16. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 14, further comprising an overwriting means which overwrites the check data with the identification information read by the reading device.

17. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the base unit is provided with a plurality of indicators, the microprocessor is provided with a communication means, and at least one of the indicators displays a drug ejection enabled state and at least one other of the indicators displays a communication enabled state indicating that communication is enabled in the microprocessor.

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18. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the base unit is provided with a plurality of indicators, the microprocessor is provided with a communication means, and at least one of the indicators displays a drug ejection enabled state and at least one other of the indicators displays a communication enabled state indicating that communication is enabled in the microprocessor.

19. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the base unit is provided with a plurality of indicators, the microprocessor is provided with a communication means, and at least one of the indicators displays a drug ejection enabled state and at least one other of the indicators displays a communication enabled state indicating that communication is enabled in the microprocessor.

20. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 16, wherein the base unit is provided with a plurality of indicators, the microprocessor is provided with a communication means, and at least one of the indicators displays a drug ejection enabled state and at least one other of the indicators displays a communication enabled state indicating that communication is enabled in the microprocessor.

21. (new) A drug feeder comprising:

a drug cassette which ejectably accommodates drugs; and

a base unit which detachably supports the drug cassette and drives a motor to eject the drugs, wherein the base unit comprises:

a reading device which reads identification information assigned to the drug cassette;

a set of a microprocessor and a memory, or a microprocessor with a built-in memory, wherein

a checking means which compares check data stored in the memory with a result of reading by the reading device is built in the microprocessor, and wherein

a check bypassing means which temporarily suspends checking function is built in the microprocessor.

22. (new) The drug feeder according to claim 21, wherein the check bypassing means includes a means for saving the check data and a means for restoring the check data or includes a means for updating a flag for switching between different operations of the check bypassing means.

23. (new) An automatic dispenser comprising:

a drug cassette which ejectably accommodates drugs;

a base unit which detachably supports the drug cassette and drives a motor to eject drugs;

a drug feeder storage which accommodates a large number of base units;

a reading device which is provided in each of the base units and reads identification information assigned to the drug cassette; and

a checking means which compares a result of reading with pre-stored check data, wherein

a set of a microprocessor and a memory, or a microprocessor with a built-in memory is mounted in each of the base units, and wherein,

in addition to the checking means which compares check data stored in the memory with a result of reading by the reading device, a check bypassing means which temporarily suspends checking function is built in the microprocessor.

24. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 23, wherein an overwriting means which overwrites the check data with the identification information read by the reading device is built in the microprocessor.

25. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 24, wherein the microprocessor mounted in the base unit of a first group activates the check bypassing means instead of activating the overwriting means, and the microprocessor mounted in the base unit of a second group activates the overwriting means instead of activating the check bypassing means.

26. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 23, wherein the check bypassing means includes a means for saving the check data and a means for restoring the check data or includes a means for updating a flag for switching between different operations of the check bypassing means.

27. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 24, wherein the check bypassing means includes a means for saving the check data and a means for restoring the check data or includes a means for updating a flag for switching between different operations of the check bypassing means.

28. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 25, wherein the check bypassing means includes a means for saving the check data and a means for restoring the check data or includes a means for updating a flag for switching between different operations of the check bypassing means.

29. (new) An automatic dispenser comprising:

a drug cassette which ejectably accommodates drugs;

a base unit which detachably supports the drug cassette and drives a motor to eject drugs;

a drug feeder storage which accommodates a large number of base units;

a reading device which is provided in each of the base units and reads identification information assigned to the drug cassette;

a checking means which compares a result of reading with pre-stored check data; and

a drug dispensing controller which prepares a drug ejection instruction by referring to prescription data or drug dispensing data derived therefrom and which uses the instruction for motor-driven ejection by the base unit, wherein

the base units are classified in a first group comprising a relatively large number of base units and a second group comprising a relatively smaller number of base units, and wherein

the drug dispensing controller preparing the drug ejection instruction includes, in the drug ejection instruction addressed to the first group, a drug feeder storage address related to the drug feeder storage, and includes, in the drug ejection instruction addressed to the second group, the check data.

30. (new) The automatic drug dispenser according to claim 29, wherein a set of a microprocessor and a memory, or a microprocessor with a built-in memory is mounted in each of the base units, and the checking means and the check data are built in each microprocessor in a

distributed manner, and wherein the microprocessor mounted in the base unit of the second group is provided with and activates an operably built-in overwriting means which overwrites the check data with the identification information read by the reading device, and the microprocessor mounted in the base unit of the first group is not provided with an overwriting means or does not activate the overwriting means.